

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (New): A radio communication method for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system including a base station controlling apparatus, a plurality of base stations, and a plurality of mobile stations, the radio communication method comprising the steps of:

step of informing that a first code being used by one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code;

step of transmitting timing information to the one of the plurality of mobile stations by message, said timing information including an integer representing a frame at which the first code is switched to the second code;

step of switching the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said step of switching the first code based on the step informing and on the transmitted timing information;

step of switching a transmission code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of base stations in synchronization with switching the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations; and

step of transmitting a completion message indicate completion of the step of switching at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claim 10 (New): The radio communication method of claim 9, the radio communication method further comprising:

step of releasing the first code.

Claim 11 (New): The radio communication method of claim 9, wherein the completion message is transmitted from the one of the plurality of mobile stations to the base station controlling apparatus.

Claim 12 (New): A radio communication method for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system including a base station controlling apparatus, a plurality of base stations, and a plurality of mobile stations, the radio communication method comprising the steps of:

step of informing that a first code being used by one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code;

step of transmitting timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching the first code to the second code;

step of switching the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said step of switching the first code based on the step informing and on the transmitted timing information;

step of switching a transmission code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of base stations in synchronization with switching the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, and

step of transmitting a completion message indicate completion of the step of switching at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claim 13 (New): The radio communication method of claim 12, the radio communication method further comprising:

step of releasing the first code.

Claim 14 (New): The radio communication method of claim 12, wherein the completion message is transmitted from the one of the plurality of mobile stations to the base station controlling apparatus.

Claim 15 (New): A radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system comprising:

a base station controlling apparatus;

a plurality of base stations; and

a plurality of mobile station, wherein

one of the base station controlling apparatus and the plurality of base stations includes a code switch informing unit configured to inform one of the plurality of mobile stations and one of the plurality of base stations that a first code being used by one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code,

one of the plurality of base stations includes a timing information sending unit configured to transmit timing information to the one of the plurality of mobile stations by message, said timing information including an integer representing a frame at which the first code is switched to the second code,

the one of the plurality of mobile stations includes a code switching unit-configured to switch the first code to the second code, based on the informing by the one of the plurality of base stations, and based on the timing information transmitted by the timing information

sending unit, and to transmit a completion message indicate completion of the step of switching at the one the plurality of mobile stations: and

the one of the plurality of base stations includes a switching unit configured to switch a transmission code from the first code to the second code in synchronization with the switching of the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claim 16 (New): A radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the one of the plurality of mobile stations releases the first code after switching the first code to the second code.

Claim 17 (New): A radio communication system of claim 15, wherein the one of the plurality of mobile stations transmits the completion message to the base station controlling apparatus.

Claim 18 (New): A radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system comprising:

a base station controlling apparatus;

a plurality of base stations; and

a plurality of mobile station, wherein

one of the base station controlling apparatus and the plurality of base stations includes a code switch informing unit configured to inform one of the plurality of mobile stations and one of the plurality of base stations that a first code being used by one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code,

one of the plurality of base stations includes a timing information sending unit configured to transmit timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching the first code to the second code,

the one of the plurality of mobile stations includes a code switching unit configured to switch the first code to the second code, based on the informing by the one of the plurality of base stations, and based on the timing information transmitted by the timing information sending unit, and to transmit a completion message indicate completion of the step of switching at the one the plurality of mobile stations, and

the one of the plurality of base stations includes a switching unit configured to switch a transmission code from the first code to the second code in synchronization with the switching of the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claim 19 (New): A radio communication system of claim 18, wherein the one of the plurality of mobile stations releases the first code after switching the first code to the second code.

Claim 20 (New): A radio communication system of claim 18, wherein the one of the plurality of mobile stations transmits the completion message to the base station controlling apparatus.